## **Monthly Fund Commentary**



## **Hartford Total Return Bond Fund**

Tickers A: ITBAX C: HABCX F: ITBFX I: ITBIX R3: ITBRX R4: ITBUX R5: ITBTX R6: ITBVX Y: HABYX

#### What Happened?

- Mixed economic data left market participants grappling with the expected timing and magnitude of Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cuts
- US Treasury yields finished little changed on the month, and spreads continued to compress across most fixed-income sectors
- Most major central banks held rates steady while laying the groundwork for policy easing later in the year

### **Performance Highlights**

#### **Contributors**

- An overweight to agency MBS contributed favorably to relative performance.
   Fundamentals remain supportive, while valuations appear attractive for newly produced mortgages.
- An out-of-benchmark allocation to high yield helped relative returns. Quality composition remains strong relative to history; we expect better opportunities to increase exposure at wider spreads.
- Positioning in non-agency RMBS benefited relative results. We favor seasoned RMBS, which embed substantial home-price appreciation and can withstand price declines in our view.

#### **Detractors**

 None of the sector allocations had a negative impact on relative performance vs. the benchmark, although US government securities had a neutral effect

# Portfolio Managers from Wellington Management

#### Joseph F. Marvan, CFA

Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1988

#### Campe Goodman, CFA

Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1997

#### Robert D. Burn, CFA

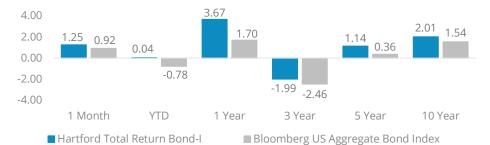
Senior Managing Director Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager Professional Experience Since 1998

#### **Jeremy Forster**

Managing Director
Fixed-Income Portfolio Manager
Professional Experience Since 2004

The portfolio managers are supported by the full resources of Wellington.

### Month End Performance (%) (I-Share) as of 3/31/24



Overall Morningstar
Rating™ (I-Share)\*

★★★★

557 Products | Intermediate Core-Plus
Bond Category Based on Risk-Adjusted

Returns as of 3/31/24

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future results. The investment return and principal value of an investment will fluctuate so that an investor's shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. For more current performance information to the most recent month ended, please visit hartfordfunds.com. Please see page 3 for standardized performance. Returns for less than one year are not annualized.

## **Monthly Fund Commentary**

### **Current Insight and Positioning From Wellington Management**

- Corporate fundamentals appear to have stabilized, although margins are likely to come under pressure as pricing power subsides
- We maintain an underweight to investment-grade credit due to better observed opportunities in various out-of-benchmark sectors, including high-quality securitized credit (residential housing benefits from low supply), BB high yield (more insulated from default risk than CCCs), and select emerging markets (limited exposure to high conviction turnaround stories)
- The Fed is biased toward policy accommodation and will likely guard more against downside growth and labor market concerns compared to upside inflation risks. We're positioned with a steepening yield-curve bias.

## Sector Exposure (%) as of 3/31/24

Mortgage Backed Securities	52
Investment Grade Credit	25
United States Government	19
Asset Backed Securities	9
Commercial Mortgage Backed Securities	5
High Yield Credit	5
Developed Government and Related (Non-US \$)	1
Emerging Market Debt	1
Bank Loans	0
Other	0
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Cash Offsets	-18

Characteristics are subject to change. Percentages may be rounded.

## Credit Exposure<sup>1</sup> (%) as of 3/31/24

Aaa/AAA	12
Aa/AA	67
A	10
Baa/BBB	18
Ba/BB	6
В	1
Caa/CCC or lower	1
Not Rated	2
Cash & Cash Offsets	-18

'Credit exposure is the credit ratings for the underlying securities of the Fund as provided by Standard and Poor's (S&P), Moody's Investors Service, or Fitch and typically range from AAA/Aaa (highest) to C/D (lowest). If S&P, Moody's, and Fitch assign different ratings, the median rating is used. If only two agencies assign ratings, the lower rating is used. Securities that are not rated by any of the three agencies are listed as "Not Rated." Ratings do not apply to the Fund itself or to Fund shares. Ratings may change.

Net Assets	\$3.3 billion
# of Holdings	1,665
# of Issuers	420
Dividend Frequency	Monthly

## **Holdings Characteristics**

Effective Duration 6.53 yrs.

Investment-grade securities are fixed-income securities that are rated at 'BBB" or higher by Standard & Poor's or Moody's.

Yield curve is a line that plots interest rates of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates; its slope is used to forecast the state of the economy and interest-rate changes.

Securitized credit involves pooling a large number of loans into an investable asset. Examples include mortgage backed or asset backed securities.

## **Monthly Fund Commentary**

#### **Performance (%)** as of 3/31/24

			Average Annual Total Returns				Expenses <sup>1</sup>		
Class	QTD	YTD	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	SI	Gross	Net
A	0.08	0.08	3.37	-2.25	0.84	1.72	4.07	0.69%	0.69%
A with 4.5% Max Sales Charge	_	_	-1.28	-3.74	-0.08	1.26	3.90	_	_
F	0.15	0.15	3.78	-1.91	1.21	2.08	4.29	0.32%	0.32%
	0.04	0.04	3.67	-1.99	1.14	2.01	4.27	0.38%	0.38%
R3	-0.09	-0.09	3.02	-2.61	0.50	1.39	4.06	1.04%	1.04%
R4	-0.01	-0.01	3.26	-2.30	0.83	1.70	4.25	0.74%	0.74%
R5	0.04	0.04	3.65	-2.02	1.15	2.03	4.45	0.44%	0.44%
R6	0.17	0.17	3.79	-1.91	1.21	2.09	4.50	0.32%	0.32%
Υ	0.05	0.05	3.67	-1.97	1.15	2.06	4.49	0.38%	0.38%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	-0.78	-0.78	1.70	-2.46	0.36	1.54	_	_	
Morningstar Category	-0.20	-0.20	2.91	-2.26	0.75	1.67	_	_	_
Lipper Peer Group	-0.43	-0.43	2.26	-2.50	0.52	1.49	_	_	_

Morningstar® Category Intermediate Core-Plus Bond Lipper Peer Group Core Bond

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Share Class Inception: A, Y - 7/22/96; F - 2/28/17; I - 8/31/06; R3, R4, R5 - 12/22/06; R6 - 11/7/14. Performance shown prior to the inception of a class reflects performance and operating expenses of another class(es) (excluding sales charges, if applicable). Had fees and expenses of a class been reflected for the periods prior to the inception of that class, performance would be different. Since inception (SI) performance is from 7/22/96. Performance and expenses for other share classes will vary. Additional information is in the prospectus. Only Class A assesses a sales charge.

Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is composed of securities that cover the US investment grade fixed rate bond market, with index components for government and corporate securities, mortgage pass-through securities, and asset-backed securities. Indices are unmanaged and not available for direct investment.

\*Class I-Shares Star Ratings: 3-year 3 stars out of 557 products, 5-year 4 stars out of 527 products, and 10-year 4 stars out of 368 products for the period ended herein. Other share classes may have different ratings. The Morningstar Rating™ for funds, or "star rating",is calculated for funds and separate accounts with at least a 3-year history. Exchange-traded funds and open-ended mutual funds are considered a single population for comparative purposes. Star rating based on a Morningstar Risk-Adjusted Return measure that accounts for variation in a managed product's monthly excess performance (without adjusting for any sales load, if applicable), placing more emphasis on downward variations and rewarding consistent performance. 5 stars are assigned to the top 10%, 4 stars to the next 22.5%, 3 stars to the next 35%, 2 stars to the next 22.5%, and 1 star to the bottom 10%. Overall Morningstar Rating is derived from a weighted average of the performance figures associated with its 3-, 5-, and 10-year (if applicable) Morningstar Rating metrics. For more information about the Morningstar Fund Ratings, including their methodology, please go to global.morningstar.com/managerdisclosures. ©2024 Morningstar, Inc. All rights reserved. The information contained herein: (1) is proprietary to Morningstar and/ or its content providers; (2) may not be copied or distributed; and (3) is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely. Neither Morningstar nor its content providers are responsible for any damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

<sup>1</sup>Expenses as shown in the Fund's most recent prospectus.

Effective as of the close of business on 3/29/19, Class C of the Fund closed to new investors, except as disclosed in the prospectus.

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Important Risks: Investing involves risk, including the possible loss of principal. Security prices fluctuate in value depending on general market and economic conditions and the prospects of individual companies. The Fund's strategy for allocating a portion of its assets to specialist portfolio managers may not work as intended. Fixed income security risks include credit, liquidity, call, duration, event and interest-rate risk. As interest rates rise, bond prices generally fall. The risks associated with mortgage-related and asset-backed securities as well as collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) include credit, interest-rate, prepayment, liquidity, default and extension risk. The purchase of securities in the To-Be-Announced (TBA) market can result in higher portfolio turnover and related expenses as well as price and counterparty risk. Obligations of U.S. Government agencies are supported by varying degrees of credit but are generally not backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Derivatives are generally more volatile and sensitive to changes in market or economic conditions than other securities; their risks include currency, leverage, liquidity, index, pricing, regulatory and counterparty risk. Foreign investments may be more volatile and less liquid than U.S. investments and are subject to the risk of currency fluctuations and adverse political, economic and regulatory developments. These risks may be greater for investments in emerging markets. Restricted securities may be more difficult to sell and price than other securities. Investments in high-yield ("junk") bonds involve greater risk of price volatility, liability

Investors should carefully consider a fund's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. This and other important information is contained in a fund's full prospectus and summary prospectus, which can be obtained by visiting hartfordfunds.com. Please read it carefully before investing.

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